

SAINTS MARKELLA AND DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Sunday of St. John Climacus



The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30, where his biography may be found. He is celebrated today because his book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

WORSHIP GUIDE

March 18, 2018

Resurrectional Apolytikion, Mode pl. 4

From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure three days in the tomb that we may be released from passions in this world, You who are our resurrection and our life. Glory unto You O Lord.

Apolytikion of the St. John Climacus, Mode pl. 4

With the streams of thy tears, thou didst cultivate the barrenness of the desert; and by thy sighings from the depths, thou didst bear fruit a hundred fold in labors; and thou becamest a luminary shining with miracles upon the world. O John our righteous Father. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved

Troparion of St. Markella, Mode 1

Obedient to the laws of the Lord and to His divine teachings, you kept them blamelessly, O Markella and being frightened of the violence of your father who pursued you. O pure bride of Christ you hid in the mountains where he found you and took your life. Glory to Him who has given you strength, Glory to Him who has crowned you, Glory to Him who works healings through you to everyone.

Troparion of St. Demetrios, Mode 3

The world found in you a great champion in danger. A victor who could turn the nations back. As you restrained Levi in the arena, you also inspired Nestor to courage. Therefore, Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God, to grant us great, great mercy!

Kontakion, Mode pl. 4

To you, Defender and Commander in a time of war, I your City offer gratitude for victory, for you rescued me from sufferings, O Theotokos. Since the power you possess is unassailable, from all dangers I entreat you to deliver me that I may cry to you: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride

EPISTLE READING

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prokeimenon. Mode pl.4. Psalm 75 (76).

Pray and return to the Lord Your God; all around Him shall bring gifts.

In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

The reading is from Paul's letter to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL READING

Holy Gospel according to Mark (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise.

TODAY WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday of St. John Climacus

Philoptochos Meeting 12:15

Philoptochos Tray for St. Basil's Academy

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Wednesday, March 21

6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy

Lenten Potluck to follow

Friday, March 23

9:30 am Bible Study

6pm Akathist Hymns

Saturday, March 24

11:00am Workshop for St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Coffee Hour Host: *Open*

Next Week's Host: *Oana Cazacu*

Ushers and Greeters: *Cookie Kostopoulos, Steve Paros,
Jeanette Rosa, and Mark Simunovich*

Altar Boys: *Zacharias Fletcher, Nicolai Kasch, Jonathan Morgan,
Constantine Sneider, and Efstathios Sneider*



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www.stmarkella.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL WORKSHOP MARCH 24

On Saturday, March 24 at 11am, Connie Morgan will be hosting a second Workshop for the Oratorical Festival. Thank you to the families who participated in the Oratorical Workshop on March 10. The Oratorical Festival is an outstanding means of helping our young people in their education, skills of communication, and faith. We encourage our families to participate. Our Parish Oratorical Festival will be on Sunday, April 15.

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PHILOPTOCHOS APRIL 1st

On Palm Sunday April 1st our Philoptochos will be hosting our Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. Kindly respond back to the Church or Cookie Kostopolous if you can come. Adults \$10, Children 12 and under \$5. Proceeds are for the Philanthropy Ministry of our Ladies Philoptochos Society.

ST. BASIL'S LITURGY ON SUNDAYS IN LENT

Every year during Lent in the Orthodox Church we celebrate the St. Basil's Liturgy on Sundays. In structure, the St. Basil's Liturgy closely resembles the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, but the Eucharistic prayers are much longer. This is in keeping with the penitential nature of the Lenten season.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN POTLUCKS

Join your parish family on Wednesdays during Lent for Presanctified Liturgy, and afterwards in the hall for our Lenten potluck meal.

COFFEE HOUR SIGNUP

The coffee hour signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board leading to the hall. Opportunities to host are available throughout the year. Thank you to all our coffee hour hosts!

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us today for worship. This is information to help make your worship experience more meaningful.

At 10:00 am the Divine Liturgy, which is the main worship service of the Orthodox Church, begins with the words from the priest “Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...”

The beginning of the service may be found on page 1 of the small red book entitled *The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*. Each Sunday the Epistle, Gospel, and certain hymns change to express what is being celebrated that day. This guide has them printed out for you so you may follow along more easily.

We welcome people of all faiths and denominations to worship with us and appreciate your presence. For those who are not Orthodox Christians we ask that you not receive the Holy Communion when it is offered to the congregation. Those visitors who are Orthodox Christians may receive Communion provided you normally receive at your home parish and have not been restricted in any way. For Orthodox Christians, when in doubt whether to receive or not, please ask Fr. Thomas in advance and he will be happy to advise you.

For those of you visiting an Orthodox Christian Church for the first time, we pray that you have a very meaningful worship experience. Orthodox worship reaches all five senses. Through sight with the icons, church architecture and the movement of worship; through smell with the use of incense; through sound through the beauty of the Church music; through taste with the receiving of Holy Communion; and through touch with lighting of candles, crossing oneself, and the veneration of icons.

You will find that the Orthodox place a great emphasis on reverence in worship. Our reverence is serious, but also very joyful as well.

Please ask one of the attendants in the Narthex (the back of the church) if you have any questions. May God continue to bless and keep all of us.

PRAY FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Please bring names of your loved ones, both living and deceased, so the priest may pray for them. We pray for all people. With Divine Liturgy, the names of the Orthodox are commemorated during the Proskomidi (the Preparation of the Gifts) and during Liturgy.

Erica Ailes	Jake Hoskin	Anastas Pazevic
Katia Antonis	Cleopatra Hughes & Family	Wes Picard
Gene & Alexis Bass	Nancy Janos	Tina Puffer
The Boltz Family	Raymond Paul Johnson	Edward Scruggs & Family
Kathy Bowdoin & Family	Mary Spiridoula Kalista	Constantine Sneider
Lark Tringas Bostick	Philip Kanellopoulos	Steve Stephanopoulos
Mary Ann Carr	Sheree Kanellopoulos	Stanojka Stevanovic
Litsa Carrion	George Karov	David Stewart
Vonni Cobb	Craig Kasch	Janet Sutherland
Angela Walters Comfort	Georgie Kasch	Col. Philip Trexler
Max Copeland	Carl Kruljac	Sue and John Tullis
Jamie Douglas	Julie Mamani	Lou Vagias, Sr.
Fr. George Dursa	Angela McBroom	Dana Visoju
Dorothy Eshelman	Ariel McBroom	Badra Walters
Zachary Fletcher	Nicholas McBroom	
Chrissy Henderson	Joey Newborn	All service men and women
Angela Hlavity	Butch Otis	who are deployed overseas
Jim Hobson	Janice Parton	

2018 PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Vice President Alex Tringas	a_tringas@yahoo.com	664-6751 H

STEWARDSHIP 2018

The following individuals/families have submitted a Pledge Card for 2018:

Darin Bell	Joe and Despina O'Neil
Betty Jo Billups	Patricia Overholt
Tim & Vicki Boolos	Steve and Veta Paros
Vonnie Cobb	Nicholas & Tanya Papadopoulos
Harold and Anita Diamond	Dale & Molly Perkins
Trina Fallon	Joan Salazar
Scott and Lynne Fehrenbach	Mark and Iris Simunovich
Keith & Rebecca Fletcher	Angelos and Katrina Thomas
Zachary Fletcher	Kark and Sandy Trammell
Nadina Garbu	Alex and Susan Tringas
Alan and Mary Gardner	Nicholas and Candace Vlahos
Terri Grammas	John Walker
Susan Horner	Joyce & Harold Walter
George and Julia Karov	Mary Walters
Craig and Mariya Kasch	
Barbara "Cookie" Kostopoulos	
Helen Kuritz	
Alexandra LaRoche	
Paul and Candace Lamitina	
Thomas Michas	
Louis and Maria McCloud	
Connie Morgan	
Matthew & Megan Morgan	
Margaret Morrison	
Andrew Nicolopoulos	

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)